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collected would be remitted to the General Fund. The cash fund simply provides the means for collecting and spending as needed any costs assessed to the parties. The fiscal note also suggests that the department's responsibilities would require investigative personnel and contractual services; namely, employing an appraiser for the market value determinations. The amendment strikes that the department "shall investigate and determine matters in controversy" to "shall hear and determine matters in controversy". It was never intended that the department would be required to employ all investigative techniques, such as interviewing witnesses, researching records and so forth. It is intended the department will rely on the evidence presented by the parties and utilize an appraiser when appropriate. The amendment clarifies that the department's role is to hear the issues and explicitly give authority to hire an appraiser. I would point out that the Department of Agriculture has estimated a fiscal note, based on handling ten disputes a year, of \$31,815 to implement the bill. Half of this cost is in contracting for appraisals that would be necessary to reach determination of such disputes. With the committee amendments, the remainder of the cost would be unnecessary. Additionally, as I have mentioned, I do not anticipate ten cases a year. The workload is more likely to be one or two cases every five years, if that, and could be absorbed by the department's existing hearing officers. With that, I'd urge the adoption of the committee amendments. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Dierks would move to amend the committee amendments with AM1174. (Legislative Journal page 1225.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Dierks, you're recognized to open on those.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This amendment installs the final piece of the compromise on this bill reached among the parties. The primary change from the committee amendments is to modify the definition of "substantial improvements". As I explained during opening on the committee